

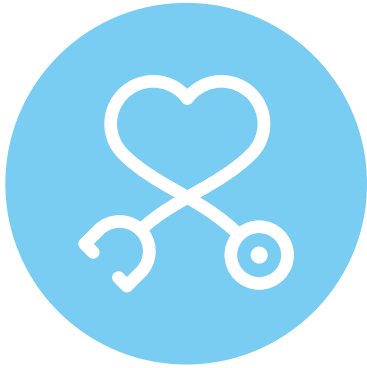
PROMISING PRACTICE

EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Worksystems, Inc.

Health Careers Northwest

 PORTLAND, OR



One-on-one coaching helps students returning to the classroom after many years succeed in healthcare training.

Health Careers Northwest (HCNW) is a WorkSource Portland Metro program that provides coaching, training, and job placement support to low-income adults interested in healthcare. They strive to assist job seekers obtain middle-income wages by providing support services and guidance during the training phase of their career journey.

HCNW provides one-on-one coaching to help students create a career plan, set goals, determine training needs, and identify the resources necessary to support progress toward employment.

Many participants in the program have not been in a classroom environment for several years, even decades. To address this, HCNW created an Academic Navigator position that works hand-in-hand with career coaches to provide additional academic support as needed. This can include GED coursework, tutoring and exam preparation, prerequisite and college coursework assistance, placement exam review, licensing exam prep, and general college navigation.

After noticing a distinct lack of resources to help students prepare for professional medical licensing exams, Academic Navigators filled the

void. Although they are not subject matter experts in the medical field, they provide strong educational support and guidance on good study habits and test-taking skills.

Placing an emphasis on college placement test support has proven to pay dividends for participants as well. These tests, which are crucial for students who have not been in a classroom for many years, help determine their potential need for remedial prerequisite instruction. Navigators recommend students take these tests “cold,” before receiving academic preparation assistance and retesting. This way, they observe how students improve their scores—often so much they no longer require additional prerequisite instruction before beginning their normal course of study.

Entering a course of study after years away from a classroom presents a significant hurdle to success, but it can be overcome with the right academic support.

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